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CATTS PARTY ORGANIZED

CATTS WILL MAKE CAMPAIGN FOR GOVERNOR AS INDEPENDENT IF KNOTT IS DECLARED THE NOMINEE. ASKS THE VOTERS TO BACK HIM UP.

Jacksonville, Aug. 9.—Preparing for any contingency, supporters of Sidney J. Catts over the state have put on foot a movement which promises to be the most unique in the history of Florida politics, and which, it is announced from Mr. Catts' headquarters, is "the very fundamental principle of democracy." A campaign committee composed of every supporters of Mr. Catts in the state is being formed, with county chairmen and officers, and a central committee with headquarters in Jacksonville.

Offices of the temporary state committee have been opened at Nos. 31 and 32 Baldwin building, where the publicity and conference work will be conducted. A. L. Turner, former tax collector of Duval county, has been selected to act as chairman of the state organization until a permanent chairman is chosen. It is the purpose of the committee, it is understood, to choose this chairman from some other section of the state.

The purpose of the organization, it is announced, is to perpetuate the principles of democracy, uphold the party's system of selecting nominees for office and to finance the campaign Mr. Catts has already started. The general plan adopted by the national democratic committee several years ago to have every voter contribute to the campaign expense fund, will also be adopted, and already the counties are being called on to contribute their part towards this fund.

Mr. Catts has made no secret that he is without finances, and that all contributions made are not for him personally, but for the cause which he represents. The campaign committee will make a direct appeal to those who believe that Mr. Catts is entitled to the democratic nomination to solicit contributions to the fund, however small, each contributor being receipted for anything from a five-cent piece to any amount. Lists will be sent to every county and circulated by Mr. Catts' supporters. Returns will be made to the treasurer of the state organization, and a "roll of honor" receipt returned to the contributors.

It was announced at the offices of the organization that several of the most prominent speakers in the state have volunteered their services, and speaking dates will be arranged and announced later.

That Mr. Catts intends to conduct a vigorous campaign, on the claim that he was being unfairly counted out of the nomination, is evidenced by the extensive plans being made. His contention is that he is not an "independent," but is the nominee of the party, whether the courts nominate Mr. Knott or not.

THOMAS GIVES UP HOPE.

Washington, Aug. 9.—Senator Thomas, of Colorado, chairman of the woman suffrage committee, said yesterday that he had given up hope of getting a vote on the suffrage constitutional amendment at this session of congress, because it could not be done without precipitating prolonged debate. "I recently addressed a letter to each senator," said Senator Thomas, "asking if he would consent to the taking up of this amendment and submitting it to a vote without argument. The reports received were about equal in number in consenting and objecting. Consequently I have done nothing further about it."

WELL KNOWN METHODIST DEAD.

Green Castle, Ind., Aug. 9.—John P. D. John, age 73, former president of De Pau University, and one of the best known Methodist lecturers and educators in the country, died here yesterday hardening of the arteries. He had been ill for some time.

HUGHES ASSAILS ADMINISTRATION

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE SEES NO GOOD EXCEPT IN THE G. O. P. ARRAYS THE WILSON ADMINISTRATION, OF COURSE PRAISES REPUBLICANS.

Chicago, Aug. 9.—Charles E. Hughes last night told an audience that crowded Chicago's big coliseum—the hall where he was nominated for the presidency—what he would do if elected president of the United States.

Mr. Hughes charged the present administration with waste, extravagance and vacillation. He declared that it had not kept the country out of war, but that it had fought an ignominious war in Mexico and had withdrawn from that war ignominiously. He charged the administration with having brought the country much nearer to participating in the European war than the country would have been had the administration "stood for American rights."

He declared that it was no more possible to expect tariff protection to American industries from a democratic congress than it would be to get a "revival sermon out of a disorderly house."

The nominee assailed the administration also for its appointments to office, and declared that if elected he would appoint to office only men who were well qualified.

Democratic expenditures for rivers and harbors were attacked.

KNOTT WINS IN SUPREME COURT

STATE SUPREME COURT UP HOLDS CONTENTIONS OF W. V. KNOTT IN THE RECOUNT PROCEEDINGS, IS A LEGAL VICTORY FOR MR. KNOTT.

Tallahassee, Aug. 9.—The supreme court in the mandamus case of W. V. Knott against certain inspectors and clerks of precincts in Duval and Putnam counties, to require them to reconvene and count ballots of the June primary, overruled the demurrer and motion to quash entered by counsel for Sidney J. Catts in answer to alternative writ of mandamus issued by the court two weeks ago. Respondents are allowed until August 11 in which to submit any issue of fact on which the command of the alternative writ ought not to be made peremptory.

The opinion is one of the longest ever handed down by this court, thirty-four legal pages of typewritten matter, or approximately 12,000 words. Twenty-one pages of the opinion is taken up with the statement of thirteen pages. The opinion is prepared and concurred in by the whole court.

The opinion necessarily had to be made long in answering the large number of attacks made upon the alternative writ by counsel for Mr. Catts. There were sixty-seven grounds for demurrer raised by his counsel in answer to the writ. Among these grounds is that Mr. Knott is not eligible to become a candidate for governor, while holding the office of comptroller. That the Bryan primary law is unconstitutional, that it is sought to mandamus the inspectors to do something that there is no law for, and a mandamus cannot issue in such case. The court holds that the law is constitutional, and does not sustain the other points raised by counsel above referred to.

TWO VESSELS SUNK.

London, Aug. 9.—Lloyd's shipping agency announces that the Italian sailing vessel Eugenia and the Norwegian steamer Aranda have been sunk. A report that the British steamer Spiral has been sunk, says the agency, is unconfirmed.

LARGER NAVY SEEMS ASSURED

FIGHT FOR THE BIG NAVAL PROGRAM SEEMS TO BE WON BY THE PRESIDENT. MEASURE WAS CHAMPIONED BY THE PRESIDENT WARMLY.

Washington, Aug. 9.—Administration leaders believed last night that they had won their fight for authorization by congress of the big naval building program, including four dreadnaughts and four battle cruisers for 1917, drawn up by the senate naval committee after conference with President Wilson and Secretary of the Navy Daniels.

Majority Leader Kitchin in serving notice that he would call up the bill in the house next Tuesday, announced that Chairman Padgett, of the house naval committee, one of those who held out in conference against the senate increases, would move that the senate amendments be agreed to. Early in the day Mr. Padgett and Senator Swanson, ranking democrat of the senate committee, had talked over the subject with President Wilson, who is understood to have reiterated his demand for a larger navy.

Senator Swanson said last night that leaders had made a careful canvass of the situation, and were confident that the senate's personnel increases and continuing building program would be accepted by the house, along with the building increases for 1917. A call was sent broadcast to absentee representatives to be on hand for the vote Tuesday.

In making his announcement to the house the majority leader said separate roll calls would be taken on the senate amendment increasing the capital ships for next year from four to eight; on the proposal for a general construction program next year providing for increased numbers of submarines, destroyers and other vessels, besides those of the capital class; on the three year continuing program; on the personnel increases; and on an appropriation of \$1,085,000 for a dry dock at Charleston, S. C.

That Chairman Padgett would make a motion to concur in the amendment came as a surprise to opponents of a big naval program; they would not concede defeat, and sent out appeals to absent members urging them to return Tuesday and vote to insist on the house resolution.

Senator Swanson said no doubt remained that the senate naval program would be approved.

APPREHENSIVE OVER FATE OF PRISONERS.

London, Aug. 9.—Apprehension exists as to the fate of the British prisoners taken at the surrender of Kut El Amara to the Turks. Lord Robert Cecil said in the house of commons yesterday that repeated inquiries had been made through the American embassy at Constantinople to ascertain the whereabouts of these prisoners, but that no reply had been received from the porte. This, he said, inspired considerable misgivings as the prisoners were compelled after the fall of Kut El Amara to cross the desert at the worst season of the year.

STRIKE A FAILURE.

Philadelphia, Aug. 9.—Despite the strike order of the local division of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees, cars of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company were operated without interruption yesterday and last night. Leaders of the strikers claim that 1,200 men quit their posts, but officials of the company declare 150 would be an exaggeration.

TURKISH CABINET FALLS.

London, Aug. 9.—An Exchange Telegraph Company dispatch from Rome says that unconfirmed reports have been received there that the Turkish cabinet has fallen.

Doier A. Duane, of Tampa, is in Arcadia today on a brief business visit. Mr. Duane's headquarters are at the Arcadia House.

R. R. EMPLOYEES VOTE FOR STRIKE

MEN DEMAND AN EIGHT HOUR DAY AND TIME AND A HALF FOR ALL OVERTIME. MANAGERS ASK FOR MORE TIME. BEEN PENDING FOR MONTHS.

New York, Aug. 9.—Four hundred thousand railway employees of the country—engineers, conductors, firemen and trainmen—through the chiefs of their four brotherhoods, placed before the managers of the railroads the question as to whether the roads were willing to grant their demands for an eight-hour day and time and a half for over-time, or submit to a strike.

The result of the strike vote taken among the employees during the last month was presented to the national conference committee of railway managers and showed that an overwhelming majority were in favor of authorizing their chiefs to call a strike.

The railway managers have given no definite answer to the renewed demands of the men, and yesterday it was agreed to adjourn over until today to give the managers time for further discussion.

A. B. Garretson, president of the Order of Railway Conductors, notified the managers that the time for parleying was over unless the roads were ready to present a modified proposal. Eliza Lee, for the railroads, said: "I am not going to answer your questions now in a definite form. I will take them up with the managers. Whether we have a proposition will develop by our own discussion."

The crisis in the railroad situation was reached in this city on June 15, when the conference between the representatives of 235 railroad systems in the United States and 400,000 employees failed to arrive at an adjustment of their differences. The conferences began June 1, following the presentation on March 30 of demands by the men for an eight-hour day and time and a half for over-time.

LAKELAND MAN KILLS HIMSELF.

Lakeland, Aug. 8.—A gloom was cast over this community yesterday afternoon by the suicide of Luther L. Bryant, who shot himself through the head while standing in the vacant lot adjoining the city hall. Death was almost instantaneous. The act was done in full view of the stores and offices on Main street, among other eye witnesses being Judge J. P. Thompson.

Those who saw the tragedy say that Mr. Bryant raised the pistol to his head with his right hand, and then lowered it, bringing it back to his head with both hands. The ball entered at a point almost between the eyes and coming out of the top of the skull, with the brains oozing out when the body was reached.

The news has caused a profound shock, as Mr. Bryant was one of the last men who would be supposed to commit such an act. He was an even tempered, cheerful man, in reasonably good financial condition, with a most interesting family, and no apparent reason whatever for such a rash deed. It is said, however, that he occasionally had spells of rheumatism and other ailments, and it is doubtless due to these causes that he took his life in a moment of mental aberration.

Mr. Bryant was about 56 years of age and a member of the pioneer family of that name in Polk county. He had seven brothers, among them being Robert and Emory Bryant, of this city. He leaves a wife and a large family, two of his daughters, Misses Eva and Maggie, having taught in the high school here. The former is now attending the summer school at Gainesville.

The jury which was empaneled by Judge Thompson immediately after the tragedy rendered a verdict that the deceased came to his death by a pistol shot inflicted by his own hand.

George Whitehurst, who was in the city yesterday on business, returned to his home in Wauchula yesterday afternoon.

KILLS GIRL AND COMMITS SUICIDE

ALABAMA DOCTOR KILLS 12 YEAR OLD GIRL WITH WHOM HE IS INFATUATED AND THEN TAKES HIS OWN LIFE. THE PARTIES WERE PROMINENT.

Selma, Ala., Aug. 9.—Leita Patrick, twelve year old daughter of W. T. Patrick, a well to do farmer residing near Lamison, in Wilcox county, Alabama, was shot and killed by Dr. Charles Davis, who committed suicide soon after, according to reports reaching here. The story brought here is that citizens of the community were so enraged over the crime that they placed Davis' body in a rough pine box and buried it without ceremony.

Davis was divorced and is survived by children residing in Butler county.

Deputy Sheriff R. L. Loftin sent from Linden to investigate the tragedy, declared that Davis had written a letter to the parents of the girl, telling of his infatuation. They objected to his attentions, because of the difference in their ages, Loftin said.

Davis went to the Patrick home armed with a shot gun, found Leita Patrick in the hallway of her home, and shot her twice, the first charge entering the hip, the second, which must have proved fatal, entering the back as the girl attempted to escape from the hall. The girl dead, Davis is said to have gone about 100 yards from the house, where he placed the muzzle of the gun in his mouth and with the aid of a forked stick pulled the trigger. The discharge is said to have virtually decapitated him.

BOND ELECTION POSTPONED

BOND ELECTION DROPPED FOR THE PRESENT. HAD BEEN PROPOSED TO BOND FOR \$900,000. THE MATTER WILL BE THRESHED OUT AND TAKEN UP LATER.

Ocala, Aug. 9.—There were between 200 and 300 delegates and citizens in attendance upon the convention to discuss bonds for permanent roads in the court house Monday. An expression of sentiment from each precinct was asked for by A. R. Griffin, of Citra, chairman of the meeting.

When it was seen that the sentiment was against bonding the county at this time, a resolution was offered by R. F. Rogers, instructing the county commissioners not to call the proposed election at this time. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

W. D. Carn, chairman of the board of county commissioners, following the offering of the resolution, said it was plain the sentiment of the county was against bonds at this time. That being the case, he thought there should be no election at present, but that the people of the county should continue to investigate the question of bonding and of permanent roads with a view to making a decision later.

It was proposed to bond for \$900,000, and build sand-asphalt roads.

THOUSAND PEOPLE SAID TO BE STARVING.

Forkland, Ala., Aug. 9.—There are more than a thousand people in south Greene county who are starving. They have been reduced to such circumstances that they are compelled to eat the sour green corn where the waters have receded. This county lies in the forks of the Tombigbee and Black Warrior rivers. The entire county was submerged and the crops are a total loss. This leaves the inhabitants without credit and without food. The farmers are unable to feed the negroes, and the lands are too wet to be worked.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Morqus, Dr. J. M. Morqus and Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Duke motored up from Arcadia Sunday and spent the day in this city as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Alexander and friends.—Plant City Courier.

CENTRAL POWERS HARD PRESSED

ALLIES SEEM TO BE HAVING EVERYTHING THEIR OWN WAY. BRITISH, RUSSIANS, FRENCH AND EVEN THE ITALIANS CLAIMING TO BE WINNERS.

London, Aug. 9.—The entente allies in the main theatres of the war have made additional notable gains against the Teutonic allies. Big advances for them in France, east Galicia and along the eastern Italian front are recorded in the latest communications issued by the allied war offices.

In France, General Joffre's men have taken German trenches three and three-quarter miles in length and from 300 to 500 metres in depth in the last two days; have again won a foothold in the Thiaumont work near Verdun, and captured two lines of German trenches on the Vaux-Chapitre-Chenois front. The British on their part of the battle line in the Somme region near Guillemont have thrown forward their line about 400 yards.

The Russians are continuing to drive their wedge westward into east Galicia in the region about Stanislaw. Here they have taken some half dozen additional villages from the Austro-Germans, and according to Petrograd, are continuing to develop their advantage. In all, says Petrograd, territory amounting to sixty-one and a half square miles has been captured by the Russians, and the pursuit of the Austro-Germans is still going on.

Nizniow, about fifteen miles to the northeast of Stanislaw; Tlumach, eighteen miles to the east; Ottynia, fifteen miles southeast, and Nadworna, twenty miles to the south, are among the latest towns occupied by the Russians. Vienna admits that the Austrians have withdrawn to the region west of Tlumach, in the face of superior numbers.

The Gorizia bridgehead, the key to an advance to Trieste and over which the Austrians and Italians have fought many notable battles, has at last fallen into the hands of the Italians, and the city of Gorizia is being shelled by them in an endeavor to drive out its defenders. The taking of the bridgehead came with the capture of Monte Sabotino and Monte San Michele. In the fighting the Italians took more than 8,000 prisoners and a large number of guns, machine guns and a quantity of war materials.

Vienna admits that the Austrian troops defending the bridge were withdrawn to the eastern Isonzo in order to avoid severe losses to them, but says the fighting in the Gorizia region continues with unabated stubbornness, and that the Austrians have repulsed Italian attacks.

HEALTH OF THE TROOPS REMARKABLY GOOD.

El Paso, Texas, Aug. 9.—With 30,000 state and regular troops encamped here, medical reports show less than 3 per cent. of sickness, General Bell announces. He adds that the showing is remarkable, anything less than 5 per cent. generally being accounted good, and said that the record of the national guards was equal to that of the regulars.

EDITOR IS ARRESTED.

London, Aug. 9.—The arrest of Dr. Ernest Meyer, editor of Vorwaerts, of Berlin, is reported in a telegram received at Amsterdam from Berlin as forwarded by the Central News. Vorwaerts is the leading socialist newspaper of Berlin, and its editor has been in conflict previously with the German authorities for his writings.

OFFERS SERVICES TO PRESIDENT.

Newark, N. J., Aug. 8.—J. A. H. Hopkins, chairman of the New Jersey progressive state committee, has placed his services at the disposition of President Wilson in his campaign for re-election. At the same time, Mr. Hopkins said he was opposed to an official endorsement of the president by the progressive organization, as reconstruction of the party in New Jersey would be his aim.